

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00447 050852Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3534

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 447

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, QA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE BY SON OF AMIR AT COMMAND AND
GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE

REF: (A) DOHA 329 (B) STATE 067060

1. ON MARCH 27, I CALLED ON BRIGADIER MOHAMED MAHMOUD AL-AFYOUNI, ASSISTANT COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE QATARI ARMED FORCES, TO INFORM HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL (B) THAT SHORT COURSE OF FIVE TO SIX MONTHS DURATION IS NO LONGER BEING CONDUCTED AT THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, FT. LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS. AL-AFYOUNI EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMED THAT HIS MARCH 11 INQUIRY (REFTEL A) HAD BEEN MADE ON BEHALF OF SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, THE THIRD SON OF AMIR KHALIFA, DE FACTO CHIEF OF THE QATARI ARMED FORCES. AL-AFYOUNI SAID HE FELT ALL BUT CERTAIN THAT THE AMIR WOULD NOT AGREE TO PERMIT SHEIKH ABDULLAH TO BE AWAY FOR NINE TO TEN MONTHS TO ATTEND COURSE NOW BEING OFFERED. AL-AFYOUNI ASKED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE THAT THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE WOULD ARRANGE SOME KIND OF SPECIAL COURSE FOR SHEIKH ABDULLAH LASTING NOT MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. WHEN I REPLIED THAT I FRANKLY DOUBTED THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, AL-AFYOUNI REQUESTED ME TO INQUIRE IN HOPE THAT SOMETHING SATISFACTORY MIGHT BE DONE.

2. I WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT INQUIRING AND INFORMING ME
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PAGE 02 DOHA 00447 050852Z

IF A COURSE LASTING NOT MORE THAN SIX MONTHS COULD BE ESPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR SHEIKH ABDULLAH, A YOUNG MAN IN MANY RESPECTS THE MOST ATTRACTIVE AND PERHAPS THE ABLEST OF AMIR KHALIFA'S SONS. ABDULLAH IS LIKELY IN TIME TO BECOME CHIEF OF THE QATARI ARMED FORCES. IF SOMETHING CAN BE ARRANGED TO ACCOMMODATE ABDULLAH, I AM SURE U.S. INTERESTS IN QATAR WOULD BE WELL SERVED OVER A LONG PERIOD OF YEARS.

KILLGORE

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NNN

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